

(San Juan, Puerto Rico)

AUGUST 8, 1964

STAT

"MARI BRAS IN PONCE

"ALLEGATION THAT WASHINGTON ORDERED MEASURES AGAINST MPI

"Declarations denouncing that 'they are discussing in the highest level of the colonial Government the urgent demand made upon La Fortaleza [Munoz Marin] in order that efficient measures be taken to stop the successful campaign which the MPI is waging for non-participation in the coming elections' were adopted by Juan Mari Bras, secretary general of the Movimiento Pro Independencia of Puerto Rico.

"In his declarations Mari Bras said: 'We have learned from informed sources that [Puerto Rican] Government sources are discussing this demand. The Government of the United States has threatened to take direct charge of repression of the independence movement if the [Puerto Rican] Government does not show immediate success in this matter.'

"Our information indicates that the Central Intelligence Agency (Espionage Organization of the Government of the United States) which has offices established in Puerto Rico with a full complement of personnel, has been rendering reports to Washington for some time saying that there will be a significant lessening of votes and that independence feeling is permeating the great masses who form the Popular Party because of the intense campaign being conducted by the MPI.

"Our information also points out that the political strategists of the presidential campaign of President Johnson in the United States are afraid that the CIA reports on the Puerto Rican situation have gotten into the hands of the Republican candidate, Barry Goldwater, and he intends using prominently in his campaign the example of Puerto Rico as a sample of the weakness of the democratic administration with what he will call "the infiltration of Castro-Communism in the United States".

"This is the reason which has precipitated the urgent demand the US Government has made on the Government of Puerto Rico.

"We are also informed that in the highest levels of the [Puerto Rican] Government they are discussing alternate plans to satisfy the demand of Washington. They have even gotten to the point of talking about mass arrests of independence leaders and have [even begun a legal study of the pretexts which would "justify such imprisonments".]

-end-